

MSFC Safety Bulletin

Unauthorized Tampering With Emergency Alarm System

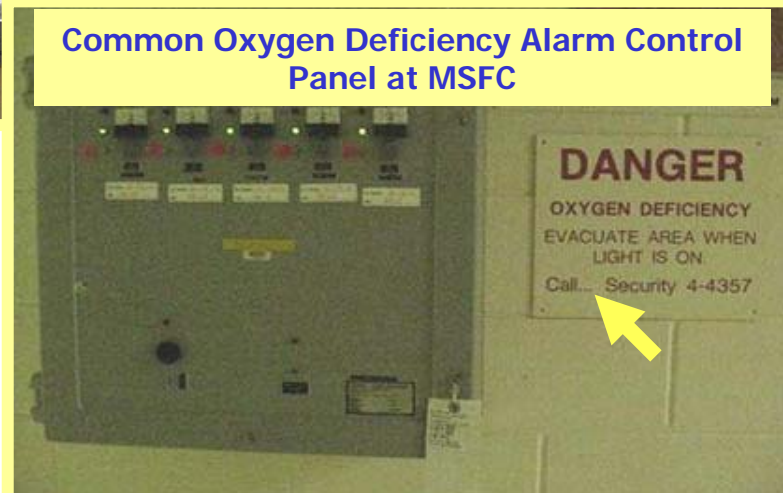
What Happened?

- An Oxygen Deficiency Alarm sounded in Building 4612.
- The MSFC Protective Services Department was notified.
- Before the Security Officer and EG&G personnel arrived, the alarm had been silenced by an employee in the area.
- When the alarm initially sounded, some employees in the vicinity attempted to silence the alarm by using the 4 Silent Alarm Switches located in the area. When the switches failed to silence the alarm, an employee opened the Oxygen Deficiency control panel and removed the control card for the area where the alarm was sounding.

Alarms and Warning Sign with Instructions



Common Oxygen Deficiency Alarm Control Panel at MSFC



What *Might* Have Happened?

- An Oxygen Deficiency Alarm activates when the oxygen concentration falls below 19.5 % in the area being monitored.
- Area employees were deprived of this critical emergency warning, which might have led to:
 - Failure to evacuate the area
 - Unprotected exposure to respiratory hazards
 - Illness, injury, or death
- Unauthorized entry into the Oxygen Deficiency Alarm control panel, could have exposed the employee to electrical shock or burns from unguarded energized electrical circuits or parts.

What Can Be Done To Prevent This From Happening Again?

- Remind employees of the need for the Emergency Alarm System and the importance of heeding all warning signals and signs.
- Instruct employees not to silence any alarms until the response teams have arrived and evaluated the situation as to why the alarm was activated.